

Hart quits presidential race for second time

DENVER (R) — Gary Hart quit the 1988 Democratic presidential race Friday for the second time, ending a three-month comeback attempt in which he was soundly rejected by the voters. "I said I wanted them (the people) to decide about my candidacy. I got a fair hearing and the people have decided. Now I clearly should not go forward," Hart said at a news conference in Denver. Hart said he would continue to work for political reform and urged the remaining candidates to discuss issues, not personalities. The former Colorado senator made a strong bid for his party's 1984 nomination and was heavily favoured to win the 1988 nod when he first announced his candidacy last April. But he was forced from the race less than a month later after news reports of his romantic involvement with Miami model actress Donna Rice. Hart, 51, shocked the political community by returning to the campaign last December with a demand to "let the people decide" and he quickly, if briefly, surged back to the top of public opinion polls.

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Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with Arab and Islamic countries, will celebrate Al Israa Wal Mi'raj (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven) Wednesday, March 16, an official announcement by the Prime Ministry said Friday. All government departments and public institutions will be closed on the day.

Arab panel starts tours tomorrow

TUNIS (Petra) — An Arab League ministerial committee entrusted with following up and supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories will Monday start a tour of five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council, Arab League sources said Friday. London will be the first leg in the committee's tour aimed at explaining the Arab stand towards the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian uprising.

Greece: No recognition for Israel

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreu Friday ruled out the possibility of establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel because of the Zionist state's handling of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Addressing parliament in a foreign policy debate that mainly focused on Greek-Turkish relations, Papandreu said it "would have been useful to have full diplomatic relations with Israel" before Greece assumed the presidency of the European Community in July. "But we deeply regret that we do not do so after the recent treatment that the state of Israel reserved for the Palestinians," Papandreu told the 300-member body.

Syrians detain PLO official

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian officials have arrested Salah Salih, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Lebanon, a Palestinian leader said Friday. George Habash, leader of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told Reuters Salih was detained Wednesday. He had apparently been held at Masnaa on the border while travelling to Damascus but Habash said he had no firm details. He said the PFLP was trying to secure his release.

20 said killed in Libyan stadium collapse

VALLETA (AP) — A wall collapsed in the central sports stadium in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, killing at least 20 soccer fans, reports said Friday. Newspapers in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, carried a report from the Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug in Tripoli quoting witnesses as saying panic broke out at the stadium when the wall collapsed during a soccer match between Libya and Malta Thursday night.

Goria resigns

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria Friday announced his resignation to a cabinet meeting, officials said. Goria, who heads Italy's 47th government since World War II, had gone immediately to hand his resignation to President Francesco Cossiga, they added.

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300 Palestinians quit Israeli police

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — About 300 Palestinian members of the Israeli police force in the occupied West Bank announced their resignation Friday in protest against the Israeli occupation, police sources said.

An army spokesman confirmed that at least 60 Arab policemen had quit in the area of the West Bank south of Jerusalem.

The mass resignations came a day after the underground leadership of a 13-week-old Palestinian uprising, in a leaflet in the name of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), called on all Palestinians serving in the Israeli police to resign.

Sources quoted by Renter said the 300 policemen submitted individual resignation forms Friday. There was no similar group action in the northern part of the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, although a handful of Palestinian policemen had quit in each area during the week, they said.

Earlier this week, a Palestinian policeman was stabbed and beaten to death during the night near his home in the Jericho refugee camp.

It was the second killing in a month of an Arab accused of collaborating with the Israeli

forces.

In the village of Biddya, near Nablus, troops demolished three houses Friday belonging to residents accused of setting fire to the home of a suspected collaborator last weekend and arrested 38 suspects, an army spokesman said.

Israeli military censors suppressed the report of the arson attack for nearly a week.

The Israeli army blocked off some cities in the occupied territories to media coverage during noon prayers Friday.

Move against worshippers

The mufti of Jerusalem issued a statement lashing out at Israel for blocking some mosques from worshippers, raiding others, and confiscating loudspeakers used to summon Palestinians to prayer.

The mufti, Sheikh Sadeed Al Alami, called on worshippers "to defend the mosques by all possible means despite the attackers."

The army destroyed one home overnight in Hebron, 30

kilometres south of Jerusalem, and three others in Biddya, 45 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem.

In Hebron, the destroyed home where 22 Palestinians live belonged to Ahmad Mahmoud Abdullah Kawasme, 57, whose 22-year-old son is accused of killing an Israeli settler from nearby Kiryat Arba five months ago in Jerusalem.

The soldiers came. They woke up about 11:30 at night and ordered us out of the house," Kawasme told the Associated Press.

"I said, 'but my son has not even been tried yet.' But it did not make any difference," he said.

The latest demolitions brought to 14 the number of Palestinian homes destroyed by Israeli troops since the uprising began in the territories more than three months ago, the Palestine Press Service (PPS) said.

The army turned back journalists from Hebron and Nablus, but the clampdown was not as severe as last Friday, when roadblocks prevented journalists from entering nearly all major cities, towns and refugee camps in the West Bank.

In Hebron, about 10 Israeli settlers with rifles slung over their

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Shamir slams Shultz plan, scoffs at possible U.S. pressure

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejected U.S. proposals for a Jewish East peace Friday and said pressure would not budge him.

In an interview with the independent Israeli daily Haaretz he attacked a plan submitted by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for an international Middle East peace conference and a speedy start to Arab-Israeli talks.

"The document is unwieldy, clumsy, imposing the shortest of timetables and containing nothing to assure the peace or security of Israel," he said.

"The whole thing is an attempt to satisfy the Arabs, my opposition to an international peace conference is unequivocal... the only thing about the Shultz document I accept is his signature."

Shamir, who leads the right-wing Likud bloc in Israel's coal-

ition government, contends that an international conference is a Soviet-Arab ploy to force Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir, due to leave for the United States Sunday, told Haaretz the Americans would have to shuttle some more to come up with proposals acceptable to him.

"We are talking about the destiny of our state. So what if it causes the Americans extra diplomatic hassle? It's a small matter for them, for us it's a question of our fate."

Shamir's stand seemed likely to anger a U.S. administration seen as the most pro-Israel ever.

Thirty senators regarded as staunch supporters of Israel wrote to Shultz this week saying Shamir's refusal to trade territory for peace was an obstacle to

progress. Some U.S. Jewish leaders have also criticised Shamir's stance.

Jewish settlers' leaders who met the prime minister Friday told Israel Radio they feared American pressure would force him to back down.

Shamir seemed unperturbed by the prospect of a cold reception in Washington. "Pressure doesn't work on me," he told Haaretz.

Speaking on army radio, Shamir said although the current American plan was unacceptable, he favoured continued talks in the hope that alternative proposals could be found.

Peres: 'Unrealistic' stand

Labour Party leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Shamir's coalition partner and political opponent, told Israel Radio the prime minister was being unrealistic.

"The same letter Mr. Shultz gave us was also given to the Arabs, and even if Shamir can convince Shultz he then has to convince the other sides," Peres said.

"Mr. Shultz has presented the plan as a package deal and it is no use harbouring any illusions about it," he said.

"I totally disagree with Mr. Shamir's statement that we can reach peace without giving up any territory. How can that be done? With whom are we going to achieve such a peace agreement? If we only needed to make peace with Jews I could understand."

A poll conducted in a popular Israeli newspaper showed that a majority of Israelis favoured Shultz's initiative.

The poll, published in Friday's edition of the Hadasot daily, said 46.2 per cent of Israelis questioned favoured the Shultz proposals and 36.7 per cent said they should be rejected.

Reagan optimistic

In Washington, President Ronald Reagan said Thursday "a great element" of Israel's coalition government supports the U.S. peace plan and that he would urge Shamir to drop his objections to it.

"I believe that peace is inevitable," Reagan said in an interview. "We may have some differences there as to how to achieve it, but I don't think anyone believes that we can go on just with a constant state of warfare and unrest (in the Middle East)."

He criticised Israel's ban on media coverage of the Palestinian uprising and the military's response in the occupied West

(Continued on page 5)

King, Mubarak discuss U.S. proposals

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks Friday in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Middle East and the new American plan for peace in the region.

The King, who flew to Cairo earlier in the day, held a closed meeting with Mubarak before being joined by senior officials from both sides.

The Jordanian side to the talks included Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. On the Egyptian side, Prime Minister Atef Sidki, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, several other cabinet members and Mubarak's advisor, Osama Al Baz, attended the talks.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were expected to return home late Friday.

Jordan News Agency, Petra said the King's talks with Mubarak came "within the context of the continuous coordination and consultation between the two leaders designed to unify Arab ranks and push peace efforts forward."

The King has already held talks with leaders of Syria, Iraq and Kuwait on Washington's peace proposals that were prompted by the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Reports said the King sought a united Arab stand before regional leaders present a clear reply to Washington's peace proposals by mid-March.

Talks with Assad

The King paid a brief working visit to Damascus Thursday and held two rounds of talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

The first meeting was attended by senior officials on both sides while the second was between the two leaders alone.

Petra said the King and the president discussed Middle East

Murphy briefs Shevardnadze on peace plan

MOSCOW (R) — A senior U.S. official Friday briefed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East peace mission, the official news agency TASS said. But the report said differences remained in the superpowers' approaches to the Middle East problem after the talks between Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Shevardnadze. Murphy, the State Department's top Middle East expert, informed Shevardnadze of Shultz's recent 10-day Middle East peace shuttle and U.S. proposals for peace in the region, TASS said. Shevardnadze questioned Murphy about the American approach to a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories. TASS said. Shevardnadze also repeated the Soviet view that "the only realistic way towards a comprehensive settlement lay through the convocation of an international conference." TASS said. It said the superpowers would continue discussing the Middle East when Shevardnadze visits Washington March 22-23.



HM King Hussein



Hosni Mubarak

developments, the Palestinian uprising and means of bolstering the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli rule.

Upon his departure from Damascus the King sent a cable to Assad "expressing appreciation for his efforts to serve the Arab Nation and referring with satisfaction to the outcome of the comprehensive talks which he said came as part of continuing consultation and coordination between Syria and Jordan to serve Arab causes," Petra said.

The King said he was deeply gratified with the analysis he and Assad made of the situation in the Middle East in light of the Palestinian uprising and international initiatives and wished the president continued health and the Syrian people more progress and prosperity, Petra said.

Andersson ends visit after talks on efforts for peace

By Najwa Najjar with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson left for Syria Friday ending a three-day visit during which he discussed with senior Jordanian officials efforts for peace in the Middle East and Swedish-Jordanian relations.

Prior to his departure Friday, Andersson also held talks on the new American plan for Arab-Israeli peace with three executive members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Reuters reported.

During his stay in the Kingdom, Andersson held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Masri. Andersson told a press conference Thursday that the talks covered trade relations and the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The Swedish minister said the discussions also dealt with the American peace proposal. He quoted Masri as saying "there were some interesting points in the American proposals."

Bishop Elias Khoury, one of the three PLO executive committee members Andersson met with, was reported as saying: "We talked about the political situation in the region... we are men of peace, and we told him (Andersson) we are not going to give up," in an apparent reference to the ongoing uprising.

In his press conference Thursday, Andersson reiterated his country's support for an international conference and for a PLO role.

"I am convinced there is no solution if the Palestinians are not part of negotiations and if they are not represented by the PLO as long as the Palestinians look on the PLO as their true representative. And they do; on this point I am quite sure."

Andersson recalled that he had met with several Palestinian notables during his visit to the occupied territories last week. These Palestinians are "ready to recognise Israel's right to live within secure borders, if they were given the same rights," he said.

Israeli officials have "a deep distrust of the PLO," Andersson said and called for a "change of attitude."

He said he doubted Israel could survive unless it accepted Palestinian rights.

Tenuous truce takes hold in Iran-Iraq 'war of cities'

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said it fired 11 missiles at Iranian cities Friday before its truce deadline, then held its fire, apparently getting the last shot in the latest "war of the cities," Iran said the tit-for-tat attacks ended Friday evening.

Iraqi missilemen fired eight rockets into Tehran, with the last at 3:44 p.m. (1244 GMT) just 16 minutes before the Iraqi deadline, and another three into the holy city of Qom, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

Iraqi military communiques called on Iran's rulers to observe the truce, saying, "if they resist, they will be spurring the blood of their people," and warned that if Tehran violated the truce:

"By God, we will make them taste bitter defeat, and we will deal them unprecedented, violent blows."

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said eight people were killed and 20 wounded, bringing the toll in missile attacks since Feb. 29 to 165 killed and 440 wounded.

Iraq said its jets raided a tanker in the Gulf and seven cities in Iran. Iran said civilians were killed. Maritime officials could not confirm the ship attack.

There were no reports of Iranian missile attacks but Iran said its artillery pounded Basra and other southern Iraqi cities and its

warplanes bombed Iraqi troop concentrations.

Iraq said women and children were killed in the shelling.

Iraq has reported firing 59 missiles into Tehran in 12 days, while Iran said it launched 27 into Baghdad. Iraq says many civilians were killed but gave no figures.

A war spokesman quoted by Tehran Radio said later Friday Iran had halted reprisal attacks on Iraq after Baghdad ended its air and missile raids.

Iran earlier said it would halt its bombardments of Iraqi cities from 1300 GMT Thursday if Iraq reciprocated. The Iranians fired two missiles at Baghdad three hours after the Thursday deadline following heavy Iraqi air raids.

Both sides threatened to resume their deadly missile duel if either one broke the unofficial truce.

Iraqi conditions

An Iraqi high command communique, issued a few minutes after Baghdad's announced ceasefire came into effect, called on Iran's leaders to adhere to the truce or "they will have chosen the path of complete destruction."

It demanded Iran accept five conditions Baghdad announced Thursday or the "war of the cities" would resume.

The conditions included an end to aggression on Iraq's interna-

tional border and any further strikes on civilian areas.

One covered the need to differentiate between residential areas and economic facilities used to feed Iran's war machine, which Iraq said were legitimate targets.

The latest war of the cities started after Iraqi bombers attacked an oil refinery on the outskirts of Tehran Feb. 27, followed by air raids on three other cities.

Iran hit back two days later with missile strikes on Baghdad, setting off a deadly series of rocket exchanges.

The truce had been arranged partly through the efforts of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who announced that the two sides had agreed to it.

Iran's premier, Hussein Mousavi, said his nation agreed to the truce because the war should "take place chivalrously on the battlefield."

Until late last month Iraq had never used long-range missiles against Tehran, which is 465 kilometres from the border between the two countries.

Iraq said the missile was home-made.

But military analysts said the missile was a Soviet SCUD-B with strap-on boosters for extra range needed to reach Tehran. The standard SCUD-B has a range of 300 kilometres

Cordovez asks for clearer positions in Afghan talks

GENEVA (R) — U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez Friday urged Afghan and Pakistani delegations to Afghan peace talks to seek clearer mandates from their governments as a way of breaking an apparent deadlock on key issues.

"I have now asked both of them to please come back on Monday with strengthened instructions," Cordovez said after brief separate meetings with the two sides.

The talks seek to secure the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan. They are stalled over Pakistan's insistence that a new government replace the Soviet-backed administration and on a U.S. demand that the Soviet Union ends military supplies.

All sides have appeared to harden their positions during the second week of talks. One source close to the talks described the mood as had, with each side trying to shift responsibility for the apparent lack of progress.

Officially the talks are only between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which has well-armed guerrilla bases and some three million Afghan refugees on its soil. But the role of the superpowers has increased.

Moscow and Kabul accuse

McFarlane strikes plea bargain in Iran affair

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan's former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane was to plead guilty Friday to withholding information from Congress in a deal with the Iran-contra special prosecutor, sources close to the investigation said.

The sources, quoted by Reuters and the AP, said McFarlane, the White House national security aide from October 1983 until December 1985, was to plead guilty to four counts of withholding key information from Congress on the U.S. efforts to support the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

McFarlane participated in the arms-for-hostages deals with Iran and repeatedly assured Congress that the Reagan administration was not providing covert aid to the contras.

Sources familiar with the case, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said McFarlane was expected to plead guilty to unspecified charges during an afternoon appearance before U.S. District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson.

Iran reportedly constructing missile launch pads on island near Hormuz

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran has started constructing crude launch pads for Silkworm missiles on the Gulf islands of Abu Musa, potentially increasing its ability to menace Gulf shipping, U.S. military sources said Thursday.

The Defence officials, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not identified, stressed that U.S. intelligence agencies had so far failed to detect any effort by Iran to move Silkworm missiles to the small island.

Iran has built similar launch pads at other sites on its main coastlines without ever deploying any missiles, one source said.

"But it's still significant, because it would really extend the coverage of these missiles — the threat envelope — if they deployed Silkworms there," said another official.

The Silkworm is a Chinese-built variant of an old Russian missile that can be fired from mobile launchers on land against ships. The missiles have a range of about 80 kilometres and while not particularly accurate, carry a large warhead packed with conventional explosives.

According to U.S. sources, Iran has acquired more than 100 Silkworms and stored the majority of them at a large naval base at Bandar Abbas near the Strait of Hormuz, the sole entrance to the Persian Gulf.

Although concrete launch pads aren't essential for the Silkworm truck launchers to operate, the Iranians have nonetheless constructed such pads at several sites along the coastline overlooking the Strait.

As a result, U.S. warships, escorting tankers in and out of the Gulf normally go to battle stations for the passage and navy jets provide air cover just in case a missile attack is mounted.

Abu Musa is a small, Iranian-controlled island inside the Strait of Hormuz, roughly 50 miles into the Gulf and almost in the middle of the waterway. It has long been used by Iran as a base for gunboats that have attacked commercial shipping.

If Iran were to deploy Silkworms on Abu Musa, "it would be doubling the arc (of space) that it can threaten," one source said Thursday.

"It definitely would extend our area of vulnerability up into the Gulf," another official said.

All the officials stressed that construction on the island had only recently begun and was proceeding slowly.

The United States has been escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf since last July. Kuwait, an ally of Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war, requested the protection after Iran began singling out its ships for attack.

The 16th convoy operation of 1988 and the 38th overall began Tuesday night and was said to be proceeding uneventfully Thursday, with two tankers steaming southbound from Kuwait toward the Strait of Hormuz along with a navy frigate.

Broadening protection

The United States is considering ways to help merchant ships that are not flying the U.S. flag in the Gulf, Defence Secretary Frank C. Carlucci said Wednesday.

"We are examining a number of options in this regard, but serious policy, legal, economic and force level issues remain," Carlucci told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan has been asked for aid by U.S. shipowners using so-called flags of convenience, such as Panama and Liberia. The navy has refused, citing U.S. policies of helping only American-flagged ships.

U.S. shipowners "continue to ask us to provide protection to their non-U.S. flag vessels," Carlucci said. "Despite our humanitarian desire to be helpful, our longstanding requirement for ships to be flying the U.S. flag remains very persuasive."

"Absent a U.S. flag, we believe a substantial foreign force operational commitment would be mandatory," he noted.

The navy decreased the number of ships in the Gulf area, Carlucci noted, after the battleship Iowa and helicopter carrier Okinawa were withdrawn earlier this year.

The withdrawal "does not represent any change in our policy or any weakening of our capability," Carlucci noted. "The numbers will continue to fluctuate somewhat, but our steadfast commitment along with our capabilities will remain in a constant as long as our presence is required."

American allies in Europe provide a wide range of help for the navy in the Gulf, Carlucci noted. Most of that aid comes from allied minesweepers that were sent into the region after the first of the reflagged Kuwaiti tankers hit a mine last July 24 and other mines were found in the following months.

Japan provides financial help, Carlucci said, but is prohibited by its U.S.-written laws from sending ships to the region.

Coleridge, 44-year-old Middle East coordinator for the British-based aid agency Oxfam, was arrested by the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) on March 3 for taking photographs in the security-sensitive area of the refugee camp outside Sidon in southern Lebanon.

The FRC suspected him and his Syrian colleague Omar Trabulsi of having links with Western governments. Although Oxfam is an independent agency, Coleridge said: "I was very much aware that I was arguing for my life."

Asked how his interrogators had treated him, he said: "They behaved with professionalism, as any other security service would do... there was never any hint of physical violence."

A fluent Arabic speaker, Coleridge was interrogated for an estimated two to three hours a day, blindfolded and handcuffed. "I developed quite an interesting relationship with those interrogating me. I felt that by the end we had reached quite a level of understanding of what my organisation does and the kind of work we get involved in," Coleridge said.

But he had no idea if he would be released, and began to think he might be held for months or years like the 25 other Western hostages in the Lebanon.

"They must be going through something very, very close to hell," he said. "I wouldn't wish it on anyone at all, and I had only six days of it."

He spoke to his captors about his wife and his young children, saying he worried they would grow up with no father. When he was released, one said to him: "Give my love to your wife."

Coleridge insisted his arrest should not deter foreign relief workers in Lebanon. "They are some of the bravest people I know, and I want to make sure their support continues."

The FRC Tuesday brought Coleridge in the boot of a car to hand him over to Mustapha Saad, leader of the People's Liberation Army militia which controls Sidon. Coleridge was taken to Beirut airport Thursday in Saad's personal car.

Of the actions that led to his arrest, he said: "There was an error of judgment perhaps, but I had been travelling all over Lebanon in the previous week and as long as you plan your visit and go with the right people, there isn't any difficulty."

Coleridge said: "I was kept in one room with a blanket and bucket and fed adequately, although I didn't have much of an appetite."

Freed aid worker arrives in London

LONDON (Agencies) — Freed British relief worker Peter Coleridge arrived back at London airport from Beirut Thursday, chastened by six days of captivity in Lebanon during which he argued for his life.

Coleridge, 44-year-old Middle East coordinator for the British-based aid agency Oxfam, was arrested by the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) on March 3 for taking photographs in the security-sensitive area of the refugee camp outside Sidon in southern Lebanon.

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Sheikh Zayed: U.S. risks losing Arab friends over support for Israel

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan warned Thursday that the United States risks losing the support of its Arab friends and allies because of its pro-Israeli Middle East policy.

His warning came in an interview with the Cairo weekly Al-Musawwar, which was distributed in the United Arab Emirates by the Emirates News Agency (WAM).

Calling for the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, Sheikh Zayed said he backed a proposal for an emergency Arab summit to support the uprising which erupted Dec. 8 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He accused the U.S. administration of being biased toward Israel in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"With such a policy, the Americans have become Israelis," he was quoted as saying. "Whatever is said by Israel is repeated by the United States."

"What could America expect of its friends if it needed them tomorrow? Should it not deal with them today in all fairness and justice while at the pinnacle of its strength," he added.

In the wide-ranging interview, Sheikh Zayed said there should be no attempt to stop the unrest in Israeli-occupied territories.

"The protests must continue until Palestinians achieve their goal of self-determination," he said.

The interview came on the heels of a Middle East shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in which he sought to reactivate the peace process in an effort to halt the West Bank and Gaza uprising.

It was not clear from the interview whether Sheikh Zayed's remarks on U.S. policy were directed toward Shultz's latest proposals for limited Palestinian self-rule and Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Sheikh Zayed said Palestinian leaders inside and outside the occupied territories must coordinate future moves.

"Yasser Arafat and the leaders outside the occupied territories must refrain from saying or promising anything without consulting the leadership inside the occupied territories," he said.

Arafat is chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), considered by the Arabs to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Sheikh Zayed also said that Arab estrangement of Egypt over the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords it signed with Israel in 1978 was not justified.

"There were no reasons that justified Egypt's estrangement in the Arab nation," he said.

The majority of Arab states broke ties with Cairo to protest agreement that led to Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

The second part of the accord, providing for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, was held up because of the Arab rejection of the treaty.

Most Arab states ended the boycott of Egypt following an Arab summit in Jordan last November which gave them the green light to restore relations with Cairo of their choice.

Sheikh Zayed was the first to do so. He was expected to fly to Cairo next week on an official visit at the invitation of President Hosni Mubarak.

"Without Egypt there will be no Arab action," Sheikh Zayed said.

He noted that some Arab states, an apparent reference to Jordan and Libya, have obstructed attempts to reinstate Egypt in the Arab League despite the restoration of ties by most Arab countries since November.

Justifying Egypt's treaty with Israel, Sheikh Zayed said: "If I can gain my enemy's respect and make him give me my rights, what more do I want from him?"

On the Gulf situation, Sheikh Zayed rejected a Soviet proposal to deploy a U.N. naval force to protect commercial shipping in the Gulf.

"I don't want the United Nations or any foreigners to protect us," he said.

But he defended Kuwait's decision to get U.S. warships to protect its oil tankers against Iranian attack in the 72-year-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

The Soviets want a U.N. force to replace an armada of U.S. and West European warships now patrolling the strategic waterway.

part of its drive to increase the birthrate.

Iraq is outnumbered by Iran in the 72-year-old Gulf war, Iran's population is estimated at 50 million, Iraq has 16 million people.

There are no available birth rate estimates in Iraq, where women make up a sizeable percentage of the workforce while the men serve the million-strong armed forces.

Women's contribution to Iraq's war effort is mainly medical and logistical.

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HOME BRIEFS

PRINCE RA'D: His Highness Prince Ra'd bin Zaid Thursday patronised the annual celebration held by the Deaf and Dumb Club to mark its second anniversary. The celebration, which was attended by Health Minister Zaid Al-Hussein, included plays and recreational activities.

HMOUD: Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al-Hmoud Friday discussed with Spanish Ambassador in Amman Ramon Armengol bilateral cooperation in agricultural fields and means of promoting it.

AJLOUNI: Minister of Tourism Zuhair Al-Ajlouni Friday reviewed with Lebanese Ambassador in Amman Pierre Ziyadeh bilateral cooperation and relations.

UREIKAT RETURNS: Minister of Labour Rashid Ureikat Friday returned to Amman after heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Labour Conference, which concluded Thursday in Baghdad.

TARAWNEH: Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Dr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh Friday met with Yugoslav Ambassador in Amman Zoran Popovic and reviewed means of boosting Jordanian-Yugoslav bilateral relations.

ZAWAIDEH: Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaidah Friday reviewed with U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roscoe Suddarth bilateral technical cooperation and ways of promoting it, especially in the construction field.

TIES WITH TURKEY: Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih Al-Nimer Friday discussed with Turkish Ambassador in Amman Samih Balan bilateral relations and topics related to the 17th conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers scheduled to open in Amman on March 21.

GEOGRAPHIC CENTRE: The cabinet has appointed Dr. Uklia Hussein Dubeimat as director general of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre. Dr. Dubeimat succeeds Eng. Ra'fat Al-Majali, who has recently been retired from service.

JAIL SENTENCE: The military court has sentenced Adli Hassan Faris to two years in prison and fined him JD 400 for acquiring drugs. The sentence was endorsed by the military governor.

2 BODIES FOUND: Bodies of a 32-year-old man identified as J.M.A. and his 20-year-old wife identified as M.S.M. have been found when the husband's brother, who entered the house and found their bodies lying on the floor. In Tla'a Al Ali the body of a youth in his twenties was also found when a Water Authority team came to clean a manhole which was blocked. It was found out that two legs of a man wrapped in a plastic bag were placed there.

STATIONERY: All ministries and government departments have been asked to standardise their stationery, according to a Prime Ministry circular issued Thursday. The circular said that the purchase and printing of paper for ministries and government departments will be restricted to the General Supplies Department.

LIBRARY SCIENCE: A 17-day specialised training course on library science and information starts at the University of Jordan's consultations and technical services and studies centre, Saturday. The centre will also host an eight-week training course on computers, also starting Saturday.

94 FIELD TOURS: Extension workers in Jerash district have carried out 94 field tours to the various parts of the district, giving advice and counselling to some 250 farmers.

BULGARIAN TEAM: A Bulgarian Red Cross Society delegation arrived in Amman Friday, beginning a five-day visit to Jordan, for talks with Jordan Red Crescent Society President Ahmad Abu Oura.

TAFIEH: A committee entrusted with reviving and promoting tourism in Tafieh governorate Thursday undertook a preliminary study to identify the archaeological sites, castles and tourist areas in the governorate.

CROSS COUNTRY RACE: Karak Education Department won the first place in the cross country race, held Friday in South Shuneh under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al-Hindawi. A total of 22 school teams from the various education departments took part in the race which was opened by Balqa Governor Mujib Khreisha, who deputised for Hindawi.

SCIENTIFIC DAY: Jordan Pharmacists Association Thursday held its first scientific day on sedatives, heralding the beginning of its annual scientific season.

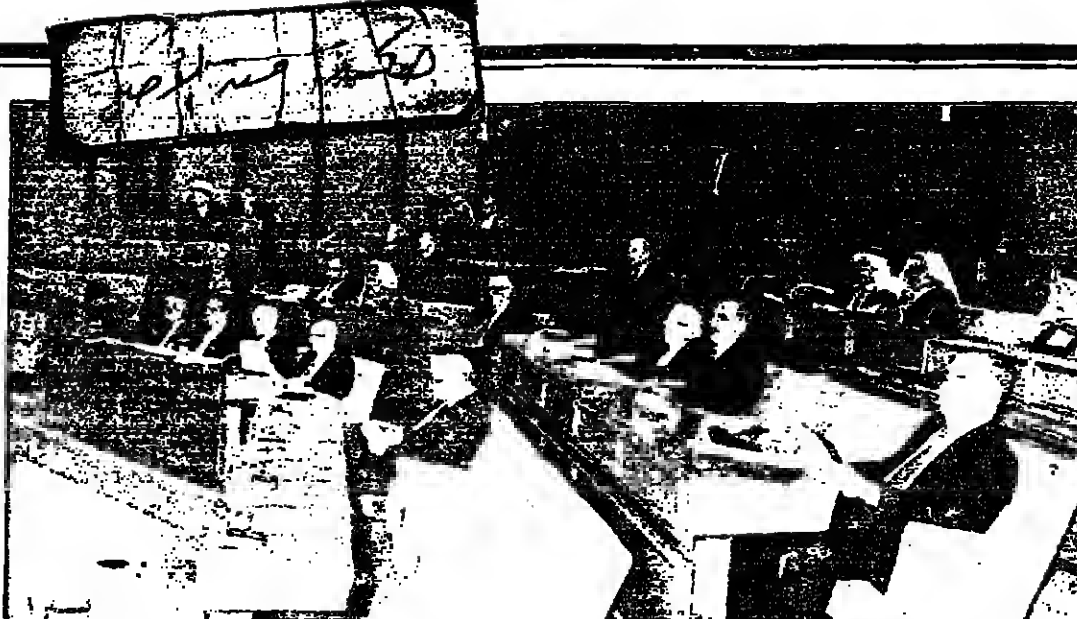
ALO approves Jordanian draft resolution

BAGHDAD (Petra) — An Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) meeting in Baghdad has approved a Jordanian draft resolution on providing protection to Arab workers in the occupied Arab territory.

Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat said that the Baghdad meeting, which opened on March 7, upheld the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in war time, and appealed to the international community to extend urgent and speedy assistance to the Arab workers under Israeli rule.

The ALO meeting also decided to set up a special committee to study reports submitted from workers unions in the occupied Arab territories and declared total support for the Arab workers and the Palestinian people and their uprising in the face of Israeli oppression.

The ALO meeting, the minister said, tackled questions related to workers' movements in the Arab World and a pan-Arab strategy for the employment of Arab workers until the year 2000, a proposal submitted by the Jordanian delegation.



SENATE APPROVES LAWS: The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Thursday discussed and approved the Jordan Water Authority Draft Law and the amendment law to the Jordan Water Authority Law after they were both incorporated into one law. The Senate also approved the Jordan Valley Authority Law and its amendment law after they were also incorporated into one law. A Royal Decree adjourning the current Senate session, was also read by Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, the adjournment will be effective as of March 11 (Petra photo).

Jordan-PLO fund ends talks on Saudi donation

AMMAN (R) — A joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee ended talks Friday on how to spend \$19 million donated by Saudi Arabia for projects in the Israeli-occupied territories.

A source at a meeting said the committee decided to spend the money on health, educational and social projects for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jordanian-Palestine Liberation Organisation Steadfastness Fund Committee, established in 1978, has so far paid out \$423 million received from various Arab governments on development schemes in the occupied territories, fund sources said.

Committee discusses traffic accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Jordanian Committee preparing for celebrations of the International Traffic Day, Thursday discussed traffic accidents in the Kingdom, which last year showed a rise in the number of injured youth under 15 years of age.

Addressing a meeting committee Chairman Col. Mahmoud Abu Hammour said that injuries among children constituted 65.4 per cent of the total number of injuries in the Kingdom.

The committee decided to form a sub-committee grouping the Traffic Department, and taxi drivers and owners, to follow up the implementation of resolutions passed by the committee during last year's traffic day celebrations.

American Centre to host telepress conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Monday, March 14, the American Centre will host a telepress conference with Dr. Emile Nakhleh, chairman of the Political Science Department of Mount Saint Mary's College and a recent visitor to Amman. Dr. Nakhleh will discuss "U.S. views of the uprising" with Jordanian journalists, including some he met during his January speaking tour. Questions from the audience will be accepted as well if time permits.

Dr. Nakhleh received his Ph.D. in international relations from American University in 1968. He has authored eight books and numerous articles on various issues in Middle Eastern politics, and has frequently visited the area to conduct research. These visits have included nearly annual trips to the West Bank and Gaza over the last ten years for study of political and social developments. Dr. Nakhleh speaks Arabic fluently.

Nursing conference ends

AMMAN (Petra) — The second nursing conference ended at the Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman on Thursday.

The three-day conference reviewed working papers dealing with the nursing profession in Jordan and the participants heard lectures and inspected modern equipment and publications on nursing.

At the closing session, Dr. Daoud Hanania, director of the National Medical Institution, distributed diplomas and awards to the participating nurses, who represented the Royal Medical Services and hospitals run by the Ministry of Health.



Director of the National Medical Institution Dr. Daoud Hanania presents an award to a nurse from the Royal Medical Services (Petra photo)

Workshop on agricultural guidance ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on agricultural guidance organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) was concluded here Thursday.

Agricultural extension service officials and experts from the

Ministry of Agriculture and its departments in various parts of the Kingdom, took part in the workshop which lasted a whole month.

Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, and USAID delivered lectures on means of stimulating the work of agricultural

extension services in the country.

Addressing the final session, Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Salem Lawzi said that the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) had recommended that more specialists should be involved in extension work if food production in the Third World is to be increased.

Haj Hassan reviews activities of PTC

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Ministry of Transport here Thursday to review the activities and programmes of the Public Transport Corporation (PTC).

The meeting chaired by Minister of Transport and Telecom-

munications Khaled Al-Haj Hassan reviewed measures to promote PTC operations and facilities to be offered to handicapped people using PTC buses.

The minister underlined the importance of extending the PTC's operations especially in the

new districts of Amman.

On Thursday also, the minister met with the visiting Iraqi Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Secretary General, Ghassan Radwan, and discussed with him promoting Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in transport.

Famous French jazz group to perform in Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The French Cultural Centre in Amman presents an exceptional jazz trio Sunday, March 13, 1988, at the Haya Art Centre at 7:00 p.m.

The Trio Claude Barthelemy features Claude Barthelemy on guitar, Jean-Luc Pontieux on bass and Manuel Denizet on drums. Barthelemy has been described by the French press as

"...simply one of the best guitarists in the world...". Those who are not easily convinced by what they read in the papers can always listen to one of the musician's albums, such as Real Politik for instance, their doubts will certainly disappear.

Whether playing electric or acoustic guitar, rock-jazz, progressive or traditional jazz, Claude Barthelemy sounds great. La Nomenklatura, one of the tracks of his above mentioned album,

includes a superb acoustic guitar part. On another cut of the same album, Princess Luce, Barthelemy integrates exotic rhythms and percussions, mid-way between Arab and Indian music. Real Politik is a demonstration of virtuosity with powerful electric guitar playing. In fact his fellow musicians say that he is "faster than his shadow." But whether playing lightning fast or slow musical phrases, Barthelemy does it with taste.

Claude Barthelemy likes to consider himself as much of a musician as he is a talented performer. When he talks about other composers, names as different as Janis Xenakis, Bela Bartok, Mick Jagger, Miles Davis or Chuck Berry appear.

His favourite group however seems Steely Dan. In spite of the many styles that might have influenced him, his trio delivers a strongly characterised and homogenous sound. Barthelemy also leads other musicians and plays not only in trio but also with a quintet, sextet and with a big band of 8 musicians.

Claude Barthelemy is the second French jazz guitarist to come to Jordan. Gypsy Bireli Lagrene gave a memorable performance back in 1986.

In fact France might be the most "jazzy" European country in spite of its neo-Anglo-Saxon status.

Although jazz started in the United States, with obvious African roots, France has always been a very important centre for the development of this kind of music, whether the musicians were foreigners or French.

Several American jazzmen lived and worked in France, the most celebrated one being clarinetist Sydney Bechet. Other French jazzmen like Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli or more recently pianist Michel Petrucci, helped give French jazz a great name. Claude Barthelemy comes straight in this line of famous performers.



The French jazz group, Trio Barthelemy, in action

Jordan prepares to host OIC ministers' meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations are underway in Amman for hosting the 17th meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers, due to be held from March 21 to March 25, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih Al-Nimer announced Friday.

He said the conference is expected to be attended by all the OIC members, as Jordan has not received notice from any OIC country declining attendance, received notice from any OIC country declining attendance.

The Middle East question, the Iraq conflict and the Afghan issue are expected to be among the major topics at the five-day conference. The conference will also direct its attention to economic, financial, cultural and social matters in the Islamic World.

Nimer noted. He said that the Palestinian uprising in the face of Israel's oppression the critical situation in the Middle East and peace prospects, are expected to dominate the political discussions.

"The current events should prompt OIC to take speedy measures that aim to bolster solidarity among Islamic countries, ending injustice and establishing a lasting and just peace," Nimer said.

He said that Jordan has hosted a number of Arab and Islamic conferences, one of which was

OIC's Foreign Ministers conference in 1980. "But this conference assumes special significance coming a few months after the Arab summit conference which ended in unanimous agreement and consensus among Arab states on issues of concern to the Arab nation."

"OIC's meeting in Amman bears other important indications since the city is the capital of confrontation state and the nearest Arab capital to the Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest Islamic shrines in the Israeli-occupied Arab city of Jerusalem," Nimer noted.

He said that cultural matters of concern to the Islamic nations are expected to be discussed in detail since OIC is keen on promoting Islamic culture and developing the work of Islamic centres in various countries of the world.

PRINCESS ATTENDS CEREMONY: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday attends a ceremony organised by the Home and Garden Club held on the occasion of the International Women's Day. Speakers at the ceremony, included the club's President Jacqueline Khouri who paid tribute to the Princess's efforts in promoting the voluntary and charity works in the Kingdom. President of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Anis Muasher also spoke at the meeting outlining Jordanian women's role in promoting social and economic activity in the country (Petra photo)

Petra Bank links its ATMS to largest ATM network worldwide

Today, March 12, Petra Bank linked its 10 ATM in Jordan to the Visa International ATM Network, the largest in the World. Every one of the 150 million Visa Card holders worldwide can now draw cash from Petra Bank's Layt-Nahar Network, as if it was the ATM belonging to his/her own bank. There are currently over 23,000 ATMs connected to the Visa Network in over 40 countries. Petra Bank is the first bank in the Middle East and Africa to link its ATMs to this rapidly growing service.

In achieving this breakthrough in technology, Petra Bank has built on several other achievements. In 1985 Petra Bank was the first Bank in Jordan to

launch its ATM programme. By the end 1986 two other banks in Jordan joined Petra Bank's network. Now with the addition of the Visa link over 15,000 Banks worldwide can participate in the Layt-Nahar Network. Petra Bank's card holder's have also gained from these technological advancements. Petra Bank has the largest network in Jordan stretching from Irbid through Amman and Queen Alia Airport to Aqaba. No other bank has such a comprehensive network. Furthermore since 1986 Petra Bank's Visa card holders have been able to withdraw cash from the Visa ATM network worldwide.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Jordan intensifies Arab contacts

KING Hussein's talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Thursday represent Jordan's on-going contacts with Arab leaders for coordinating the Arab Nation's efforts in dealing with fast moving developments in the Arab World. It is quite natural to believe that the latest U.S. initiative for a Middle East peace, Israel's terrorist activities in the occupied Arab territory and the current uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip form the crux of these talks and these consultations. Perhaps also the recent call by the Algerian president for an Arab summit to rally support for the uprising is also on the King's agenda of talks with Arab leaders. These positive moves and the on-going contacts between Jordan and Arab countries can be regarded as a happy offshoot of the Amman Arab summit where the Arab heads of state came to an agreement on matters of concern to all Arabs. It is in this spirit of agreement and consensus that the King is maintaining his contacts with the Arab states and with the purpose of arriving at joint action that he continues his relentless efforts at all levels. There is no doubt that the Palestinian uprising has given further boosting for inter-Arab coordination and paved the way for unified pan-Arab action on the diplomatic level.

Al Dustour: King rallies Arabs

KING Hussein has maintained his consultations with Arab leaders with a visit to Damascus Thursday where he discussed developments in the Middle East with the Syrian president. There is no doubt that the common challenges and the events in the Arab region warrant such consultations and call for further efforts to coordinate Arab countries steps. Jordan has been spearheading efforts over the past years to achieve solidarity among the Arab states and has been successful in convening an Arab summit last November for achieving that end. The spirit of this conference still dominates the contacts between the Arab states and guides them towards joint action that can support the Palestinian people's uprising and enable the Arab heads of state to deal with other pressing issues. The present Israeli oppression in the occupied Arab territory and Israel's intransigence with regard to lasting solution for the Middle East question can be best answered through an Arab solidarity and unity of ranks. The King's tour of Arab countries follow close on the heels of his visits in Europe and talks with leaders there on matters related to the Middle East region and the Gulf war. His endeavours abroad have won the Arab Nation further support and backing for its legitimate rights and its struggle to attain peace based on justice.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs stand unified

THE King's talks with the Syrian president have reaffirmed the fact that the Arabs are adhering to their unified stand adopted at the Arab summit meeting in Amman and that their unified action can and should serve as the best policy in dealing with the Israeli enemy. The talks in Damascus will no doubt enhance this coordinated policy among the Arab leaders and are bound to help the nation confront Israel's intransigent policy. Agreement and consensus among the Arabs achieved at the Amman summit is helping them to take further steps in their strive to re-establish peace and in their endeavours abroad to gain more support from different nations. The Arabs, through their consistent efforts and coordinated steps, are no doubt winning the world community's backing for convening an international conference that can deal with the Palestine question and end the Arab-Israeli conflict. By visiting Arab capitals and talking to the Arab leaders the King is maintaining the spirit of the Arab summit which he hosted in Amman, and is continuing Jordan's relentless drive to arrive at a just and durable peace.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Jordan adheres to full conference

KING Hussein's renewal of Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East issue brings us more assurance and more confidence. The monarch made it clear that Jordan bases its stand on the unanimous position taken by the Arab countries at the Amman Arab summit last November and therefore, this country adheres to its demand for an international conference as being the only feasible means for building a just and durable peace in this region. Jordan had earlier declared its clear stand with regard to the situation through Prime Minister Zaid Rifai who said that this conference should group all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and that the conference should have full terms of reference concerning the establishment of peace. Reaffirmation of this positive stand means that Jordan is committed to a pan-Arab position which should be consistent despite the on-going Israeli terrorist activity in the occupied Arab lands and the crimes committed by Zionists. Jordan's reaffirmation of its determination to seek a just peace is also bound to enhance the steadfastness of the Arab people in the face of Israel's evil intentions.

Al Dustour: Hail the martyrs

THE Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory enters its fourth month as more and more Arabs fall martyrs on their Palestinian soil. The uprising reaffirms to the world the fact that it is a revolt and a sacrifice by the Palestinians for the sake of liberating their homeland, and that Israel's brutal measures and crimes cannot stop this people from seeking freedom. This uprising has proved to the Israelis that their life has become an intolerable hell, and that the Israelis will have to pay the price of their continued occupation and will have to suffer like the Arabs they ruled with oppression and cruelty. The Israeli information and mass media are full of instances displaying the negative effects of this Arab uprising on Israel's political, social and economic sectors. We follow the news and the developments in the occupied Arab territory with pride of our brothers' struggle and we bow with due respect before the martyrs who fell in the course of seeking freedom from oppression.

Among Arabs, bitter views of the West

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

DAMASCUS, Syria — His parents' dinner guests were a little startled here last Thursday, when 10-year-old Zaher Yaghi, broke into their conversation to proclaim that Secretary of State George Shultz is "against peace and the Palestinians."

Young Zaher, a bright, red-haired bonour student, was adamant, even when told that Shultz had yet to see his president, Hafez Al Assad, to seek peace in the Middle East. "He is no good. America is no good," the boy said, apparently closing his mind on the subject.

A few days earlier, a group of leading Saudi businessmen, university professors and government officials sat at lunch at the Red Sea port of Jeddah, competing to tell stories about how duplicitous Shultz can be.

It was recalled that he was quite solicitous toward Arabs when he ran the huge Bechtel Corporation, which did much of its profitable business in the oil-rich Arab countries.

"But the moment he became foreign minister he turned on us," said one businessman. His companions all agreed.

Despite the attack on Shultz, the disappointment is not so much with him but with what many Arabs say is a moral failure of the United States and the rest of the Western world. They say it was a bad time for Shultz to come out and try again to bring Arabs and Israelis together.

Throughout the region, the now-notorious CBS film showing Israeli soldiers beating two Palestinians has been shown repeatedly on television channels in virtually every Arab country to millions of Arabs, producing enormous anger and indignation.

A barrage of criticism

As other scenes of Israelis attacking Palestinians play endlessly on every newscast, in every Arab city, every day, Arabs are increasingly comparing the Israelis to the South Africans, and then pointing out that the West is unwilling to treat Israel as harshly as it does South Africa.

There is hardly an Arab newspaper that fails to make this point, daily. Conversations with a wide range of Arabs in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan,

eventually turn on those issues. Instead of economic sanctions imposed on South Africa for oppressing blacks, the newspapers say, Israel continues to enjoy huge American aid while it torments its Arab populations.

"We want to tell the United States, Britain, France and the whole West, look what you have created. Your Israel has become a savage beast. Come and see this beast. Do something to stop it. Show us you have a conscience."

Instead of arms embargoes, Israel enjoys an exclusive arms relationship with NATO and the United States, they say. They also say that the burt has been building for a long time — a strong conviction that the United States' bond to Israel is so strong that the United States cannot see transgressions on Palestinian human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The lament is equally intense whether it is made by a Saudi millionaire or a militant leftist Palestinian guerrilla leader.

"We want to tell the United

States, Britain, France and the whole West, look what you have created. Your Israel has become a savage beast. Come and see this beast. Do something to stop it. Show us you have a conscience," said George Habash, a physician

who is the head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the more radical of the Palestinian groups allied with Syria.

A Saudi university dean argued that America is losing its principal asset with the Arabs by reacting mildly to Israeli transgressions. The fundamental sense of fairness that the world, and the Arabs, admire in the Americans appears to be absent, he said.

"This is serious, believe me," he asserted. "This can really cost."

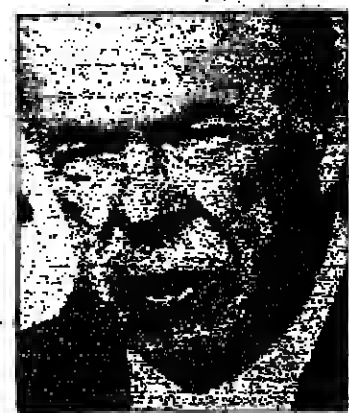
Of course, such emotional talk is not new, and it is not evident

that it makes much impact on the Western world. A few months ago, a United States official who toured the region heard similar arguments about the need for a more even-handed American policy. But he dismissed it, saying, "They need us a lot more than we need them," referring to the Arab World and the United States.

What is new, however, is that the intensity of the feelings provoked by the events in the occupied territories may in fact produce a need for Arab governments to take an aggressive stand toward the United States, since most of them can do little about Israel, and most Arab governments feel pressure to do something.

"This uprising is threatening the Arab regimes as much as the Israelis and the Americans," Habash said here recently.

Indeed a little more than two weeks ago the Saudi government reacted to a passing remark by PLO leader Yasser Arafat that only two Arab countries, Kuwait and Iraq, really helped the Palestinians with money during this crisis. The Saudis ordered all



George Shultz

domestic newspapers to publish a detailed list of all the millions of dollars it had channelled to the Palestinians over the years.

The Saudi indignation went on for days until it appeared to be an overreaction. But a senior Arab cabinet minister who discussed the issue explained that the strong answer to Arafat was motivated not by pride, but by concern. "This is not the time to be accused by Arafat, or anybody else, of not helping Palestinians," he said — The New York Times.

Turkish press tries to brush up image

By John Owen-Davies

Reuter

ANKARA — Stung by charges of bad reporting, Turkish journalists have set up a watchdog body to help improve the image of their newspapers and maintain press freedom.

Relations have long been strained between the government and most top newspapers, with sensational political articles, show business "exposés" and pictures of scantily-clad girls bringing pressure for legal controls and a draft law to punish "false news."

Shouts of agreement, and a chorus of "the press is a liar," provided a background for scathing comments about newspapers made by Turkey's conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at a party meeting a few days ago.

Ilmur Cevik, editor-in-chief of the Turkish Daily News, said journalists were aware "things are getting out of hand and that irresponsible reporting has tarnished the image of the press."

"The best remedy is the one the press offers, to correct itself. This is why the Press Council has to succeed. Failure will be an open invitation for the government to suppress the press," he wrote in an editorial.

His view of the Press Council is not shared by some newsmen who see it as government-inspired although agree change is needed.

The government says it has no wish to reduce press freedom and is taking every precaution to make democracy bloom following the 1980 coup and three years of military rule.

Since the Press Council came into being this month, the government has shelved its draft law providing for fines up to the equivalent of \$10,000 for publishing "false news."

Editor's fears

Editors feared the "false news" draft, terming it a grey area, and said such a law, together with those already dealing with obscenity and "anti-state activities," could be used to curb press criticism.

The Press Council has been set up at a critical time as the fiercely-independent newspapers fight to keep readers against a state-controlled television drive to extend coverage to most of Turkey's 52 million predominantly-Muslim people.

The total circulation of newspapers, which generally see themselves as pursuing a parliamentary opposition role, has dipped since 1983 to about 2.5 million from over three million.

Ozal wittingly dismissed newspaper power as he spoke to party members in Izmir this month: "Let them write. They don't have any influence any more."

And he accused one newspaper of publishing, on successive days,

contradictory reports on the volatile "tahtakale" currency black market.

New Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan has just weathered a storm stirred by the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet, which alleged he had been involved in shady dealings while a career diplomat. Vuralhan denied the charges.

Exposés of showbusiness personalities, such as U.S. rock star Madonna, and titillating pictures of foreign pornographic film actresses and other so-called celebrities carried in some of the nine big papers do little to endear them to the establishment.

According to Cumhuriyet, nine newspapers and magazines have been fined a total equivalent to \$6.5 million under the obscenity law, passed in 1986.

Constitutional change

Okay Eksi, a respected columnist for the biggest selling daily Hürriyet, said the Press Council, which he helped to form, would investigate and decide on complaints about the press and strive to maintain press freedom.

"We want to initiate moves through political parties to put articles in to the constitution that will ban proposing any draft press legislation aimed at hindering press freedom."

Ahmet Abakay, chairman of the Association of Contemporary Journalists, opposes the council. He says the idea for such a body first came from the government

and that some of its founders no longer have any relationship with the press.

"If there are obstacles to press freedom in a country — and indeed there are many in Turkey — the struggle for getting rid of them is the job of the journalists' trade unions and the press associations," he said.

The Press Council's charter was signed by representatives of the major dailies and three domestic news agencies. Its governing body comprises journalists, professors and an actress.

The council has about 600 members. It claims some of the other 3,900 Turkish press card holders are either not real journalists or never served necessary apprenticeships.

State Minister Mehmet Yazar, the government spokesman, said in a newspaper interview nothing within existing laws reduced press freedom. "Our government does not have the slightest desire to cut the freedom of the press."

On the now shelved "false news" draft, he said: "The problem is not a matter of lies etcetera. The problem is cutting down on the bad examples which are the reason why the press's dignity and esteem have been damaged."

Apart from fines on newspapers, journalists individually have fallen foul of existing laws. At least 37 are estimated to have received jail sentences since 1980.

OPEN FORUM

Status symbols

WITH reference to the article about loose dogs in Abdoun, (Saturday March 5), it is a very serious problem when they become so dangerous as to kill other dogs. How long do we have to wait before some child or defenceless elderly person is badly injured or even killed?

It is all very well to have a "guard-dog", which in some cases is only a "status symbol", and serves no real purpose at all. One can see these dogs permanently chained in yards and even on roofs, (why there?) regularly. It is small wonder that some break loose through sheer boredom and desperation. Anyone owning such a dog should make sure that it is exercised regularly, and that it cannot get out to attack. Otherwise they should not have a dog if that is too much trouble. After all, what quality of life is it on a chain for evermore? No better than being in prison.

I agree with Mrs. Nassar that legislation be immediately drafted to hold owners of vicious dogs and dangerous house-pets fully liable for incidents similar to the terrifying one she experienced. Hopefully when the new Animal Welfare Society is formed it will encourage people to look after their dogs properly and not allow them to run loose, which is also a danger to traffic. It would be an advantage too if all owners were compelled to have identity tags on dog-collars.

Chris Larier

OPEN FORUM is an occasional column open to all Jordan Times readers, staff members, contributors and friends. Opinion, analysis or reflection pieces are invited from all would-be polemicists who have thoughts they would like to share with our readers. No topics are barred. The only criteria for submissions are good taste and the writer's name and address. All pieces must carry the writer's name, and can vary in length from a few sentences to a few pages. Submissions should be typed (double-spaced), and may be edited for style.

Troops may withdraw, but Soviet influence remains

By Victoria Graham

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even if Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan, they are likely to leave behind an infrastructure that could greatly prolong Moscow's political, economic and social influence there, according to Western specialists.

These analysts say Soviet influence, if not control, could be strongly perpetuated by the past Soviet training of Afghan army officers and the presence of Soviet advisers in Afghan government ministries. Depending on the terms of the troop withdrawal accord, these ties could continue, along with the military and civilian training of some Afghan youths, from kindergartners to university students, in the Soviet Union.

In a recent appraisal of the Afghan situation, the U.S. State Department cited strong past military, trade and educational ties between Moscow and Kabul, and plans for further coordination of their economies and the integration of Afghanistan's electrical system into the Soviet power grid.

NEWS ANALYSIS

By the department's estimate, some 10,000 Afghan youths are believed to have been trained in the Soviet Union so far, and many of them could occupy important Afghan posts in the future.

M. Siddiq Noorzoy, an Afghan professor of economics at the University of Alberta in Canada, estimates Afghanistan's debt to the Soviet Union at the equivalent of more than \$2 billion. The Soviet Union has a series of agreements for the exploitation of Afghan mineral resources, including natural gas, iron, copper and other materials, and such operations could continue as one means to pay off the debt.

Other means

Barnett R. Rubin, assistant

professor of political science at Yale University and a specialist in South Asia, said in a telephone interview that while the Soviet Union made a mistake by going into Afghanistan militarily, it still seeks wide influence in the region.

"There are other ways than sending in troops and occupying Afghanistan," he said. "They do have tools and will have influence, as they did before 1978 because of Afghanistan's position."

In the latest round of diplomacy on Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has publicly professed little interest in the precise nature of the Afghan government after a Soviet withdrawal, saying the problem is one for Afghans. It no longer demands that a transitional government, including Communists, be formed before withdrawal.

It has reduced its pullout timetable to nine months, and agreed that key combat units and most troops should leave in the first period. The key condition is that U.S. and outside aid to anti-Communist Afghan fighters will stop when troops begin leaving.

Cynics say the Soviets can afford a swift pullout, so long as there is no Western aid to the anti-Communist guerrillas, because the basis for prolonged Soviet influence in that country has now been in place for years. How durable that Soviet influence will be is debatable, and much depends on the future government of what the Soviets say should be a neutral, nonaligned and friendly Afghanistan.

Some analysts see a certain urgency to the situation for the Soviets, even if perfect control of Afghanistan isn't assured.

Decentralised army

"The Soviets want to walk away and cut their losses because intervention has been an unmitigated disaster," said Jonathan Sanders, assistant director of the W. Averell Harriman Institute for Advanced Study of the Soviet Union at Columbia University in New York.

He said a rapid Soviet pullout from Afghanistan could make Soviet-backed governments, like that in Vietnam, reassess Moscow's dependability.

Rubin said there are things a future Afghan government can do to reduce absolute dependence and dilute Soviet influence. These include developing trade with other neighbours, stopping conflicts with neighbouring, pro-Western Pakistan, dissolving the secret police and sending Soviet advisers home.

The biggest problem, Rubin

said, is military, since the Afghan officer corps is Soviet-trained and Soviet-supplied. He suggested a decentralised army, like the Swiss army, incorporating the anti-Communist insurgents.

An article by Noorzoy in a book on Afghanistan by Freedom House, a U.S.-based human rights group, calls Afghanistan "a paradigm of Soviet economic policies in underdeveloped countries, policies that fit into long-range Soviet geopolitical plans."

Since the economy has been

shattered by the war, Soviet and East bloc aid is massive. Afghanistan imports wheat from Soviet Union, which buys or barter its major export, natural gas. Moscow also receives, or has agreements to receive, iron, copper, chrome, uranium and other minerals, often in exchange for Soviet-made consumer goods to Afghanistan.

Last year Moscow gave about \$220 million in development aid and pledged \$405 million in commodities. It has more than \$750 million in credit agreements with

Afghanistan, including a \$150-million, 10-year project to connect Kabul and adjacent provinces with a Soviet power grid by 1991.

Afghanistan's 29 provinces have signed aid agreements with individual Soviet republics, and last year, the Russian Republic, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics, directly sent fertilizer and agricultural machines to Kabul.

Afghan education remains a "tool of Soviet propaganda," the State Department said in a December report.

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A diver lifts a timber from a 16th-century Basque whaling vessel found off Labrador. Interest in ancient shipwrecks, combined with increasingly sophisticated diving techniques, has led archaeologists back

in time. Scientists now seek, on the world's continental shelves, evidence of human activity from the dawn of mankind.

Prehistoric finds on seabed herald new era of archaeology

By Donald Smith
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — A high-technology diving expedition off the coast of Greece last summer may provide keys to an old puzzle halfway around the globe: Who were the first humans to cross the ancient land bridge from Asia to the Americas? And when did those prehistoric hunters — ancestors of the American Indians — arrive in the New World?

"The dates for the crossings are extremely uncertain; we don't know which branch of humanity or which cultures were involved," says Nicholas C. Flemming, the British geologist who helped supervise the dive, which was supported jointly by the National Geographic Society and the Royal Geographical Society.

"Last summer we took an intermediate but very important step toward finding the answers," says Flemming. "This was the first time, to my knowledge, that anyone has ever set out specifically to find evidence of human occupation this far back in time in areas that are now submerged."

Flemming expects that techniques developed during the dive eventually will be used to discover traces of human passages in the now-undersea realm of Beringia — today's Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska — as well as in the lands, now also under

water, that once nearly linked Australia and Southeast Asia.

These techniques also may help determine when humans first occupied the world's major islands, including Britain, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, the West Indies, and Japan.

Evidence of when humans first entered the Americas has long eluded archaeologists. Estimates of human occupation have ranged from roughly 15,000 years ago to as long as 100,000 years.

One fundamental question is whether the primitive humans known as Neanderthals ever made it into the New World. Scientists believe this branch of mankind died out about 40,000 years ago. Most doubt that Neanderthal bands reached the Americas, but that belief could be shaken if someone found evidence of New World occupation that predated the last period Neanderthals were known to exist.

It has long been assumed that the answers to these questions lie buried beneath the sea forever — or at least until the day, perhaps thousands of years from now, that a new ice age drops the sea level once again.

However, pioneers of a relatively new branch of science — underwater archaeology — are challenging that proposition.

Attention originally focused on ancient shipwrecks and sub-

merged villages of classical times in the Mediterranean. But periodically, fishermen would bring up material that was far older, leading researchers in the 1920s and 1930s to believe that people occupied the continental shelves of the North Sea and the Mediterranean coasts of France and Italy during prehistoric periods of glacial low-sea levels.

Interest in underwater evidence of Stone Age human activity has grown steadily since then, as diving technology has become much more sophisticated. Flemming's involvement dates back to his diving days with the British Royal Marines. While a student at Cambridge, he helped found the first University Diving Group. He later published "Cities in the Sea," a book about his experiences exploring settlements that now lie beneath the Mediterranean.

Last summer, Flemming and Demetrios Kazianis, a Greek-government antiquities expert, led a four-week underwater expedition around Corfu, a resort island off the coast of Greece.

The dive was conducted under the auspices of Greece's Department of Underwater Archaeology and the British Institute of Oceanographic Sciences. The international diving team included 14 people, along with six vehicles, a chartered fishing trawler, three high-speed inflatable boats, and

an array of state-of-the-art electronic gear used in offshore surveys.

During an earlier trip to the island, Flemming had identified Corfu as a likely place to find paleolithic relics far enough off shore and in deep-enough water that they could not have come there from land. When he returned to Corfu, he was not disappointed.

"I was swimming over one of the shallower sites, about 5 metres deep," Flemming recalls, "when I saw some big, irregular slabs of yellowish-green rock on the seabed, with patches of gravel and small rocks around the big rocks. It was in these patches of gravel that we found stone tools."

The artifacts, mostly flint blades and flakes from making the implements, ranged in age from 11,000 to 40,000 years old.

But the real payoff of the trip was something more than the artifacts themselves.

"What this project demonstrated was not only that these paleolithic materials do survive under the sea, which we already knew, but also how to look for them," says Flemming. "You cannot go out and make random searches. You really have to work like a hunter, follow a trail. Now we know how to devise search strategies for new areas on continental shelves all over the world."

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — March 12, 1988

8:30 Married with Children

9:00 Variety show

10:20 Feature Film
Lash of Vengeance

Starring:
Tony Musante
Simon Oakland

Sun. — March 13, 1988

8:30 Farrington
Every Time We Say Goodbye

Promotion and transfer to a better posting are at last in view for Harriet, until a senior member of her staff is arrested for espionage.

9:10 A Conductor At Work
Claudio Abbado
One part documentary

This film traces a year in the life of Claudio Abbado, one of the most distinguished conductors of the younger musical generation, showing him at work both in rehearsal and on the concert platform with some of today's most eminent musicians.

10:20 Secret Army

Mon. — March 14, 1988

8:30 Are You Being Served

9:10 Vanity Fair
Vulgar Incident

10:20 Feature Film
Munster, Go Home

Starring:
Fred Gwynne
Al Lewis

Herman Munster inherits a title, and the family goes to England, where they're involved in plenty of creepy doing.

Tue. — March 15, 1988

8:30 No Place Like Home

Beryl is desperately missing her noisy brood, who have all left home. So Arthur decides to cheer her up by inviting them all to a surprise dinner.

9:10 Standby... Light! Camera! Action!

10:20 Murder She Wrote
The Bottom Line is Murder

11:10 Three's Company
Janet's Promotion

Wed. — March 16, 1988

8:30 Sweet Surrender

9:00 Well Being
Walking the Tightrope — Living with Diabetes

This programme special is about diabetes, suffered by one in every 100 people in the U.K. and a chronic condition that can lead to blindness, kidney failure, gangrene and early death.

9:35 Tales of the Unexpected
The Verger

The delightful story of Albert (Richard Briers) and Milly (Patri-



Therese Liotard Monique in Thursday's feature film, Cloud Walker

cig Routledge), an elderly couple who have for many years been faithful employees of their local church. When a new priest arrives, he plans radical changes which do not include Albert and Milly. However, losing their job at the church turns out to be a real stroke of luck!

10:20 Nancy Wake

Thur. — March 17, 1988

8:30 Kate and Allie

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film
Cloud Walker

Starring:
Kathleen Beller
Francois-Erich Gendron

It is the story of a love which develops between a young American freelance journalist and the millionaire vineyard owner she sets out to interview.

Fri. — March 18, 1988

8:30 Growing Pains
The Scarlet Letter

When Carol, prepared for failure, gets an A on a surprise quiz she totally faked her way through, she seriously questions the validity of her outstanding academic career.

9:10 Magnum

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Some Mothers Do Have Them

World record set with new ceramics

A SUCCESSFUL development in materials science has taken German and Spanish researchers at the solar test centre in Spain a large step ahead in the direction of the economical production of energy from solar radiation. A radiation receiver newly developed for use in the gas-cooled solar tower power station (GAST) reached a coolant temperature of 1,000 degrees Celsius — a new world record.

The Plataforma Solar solar test centre came into being as a result of the junction of heliothermal power stations and a solar tower power station (CESA-1) in the southern Spanish province of Almeria. The heliothermal power station was originally constructed jointly by eight countries belonging to the International Energy Agency; the construction

project was coordinated by the Deutsche Forschungs- und Versuchsanstalt für Luft- und Raumfahrt, DFVLR (German Aerospace Research Establishment). CESA-1 was built by the Spanish Instituto de Energias Renovables (Institute for Self-Regenerating Energies). Since the middle of 1981, Almeria has been the site for the implementation of GAST, a German-Spanish technology programme which is financed in equal shares by both countries. DFVLR is the partner involved on the German side.

The principle of the solar tower power station was developed to circumvent one of the crucial disadvantages of using solar energy economically, namely its low wattage per surface unit. One strategy to balance this disadvantage

is to lower the cost for the surface elements, e.g., solar cells or solar collectors. The tower concept, however, achieves the same effect by concentrating the incident radiation in mirrors and guiding it to a radiation receiver at the top of an 82-metre-high tower.

In the past, a metallic heat exchanger unit was used as a receiver. With an operating pressure of 9.5 bar this system provided air at a temperature of 800 degrees Celsius which was used to produce electrical energy through gas turbine generators. However, with this method the limits of the materials employed were reached. The solar radiation collected by 300 mirrors with a combined reception surface of 11,800 square metres can amount

to more than 500 kilowatt per square metre. Without sufficient cooling, this temperature would make the material melt within a short period of time. The new high-temperature heat exchanger is made of sintered silicon carbide, a ceramic material. It has helped push the temperature limit toward the 1,000-degree mark for the first time ever.

High temperatures in that range are important to using solar energy to provide heat for chemical processes. Hence, investigations into applications of this kind are now on the research agenda, as are studies on the possibility of coupling highly concentrated solar radiation directly with solid or liquid carriers of heat energy — German Research Service, Bonn.

Continued from page one

Shamir slams Shultz plan, scoffs at possible pressure

(Continued from page 1)

Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I'm a great believer in a free press and the right of the people to know... so I would have to be opposed to it — thinking that they want to conduct operations in which they would rather not have public knowledge of them," Reagan said.

The president conducted four separate interviews in the White House with television journalists from France, Britain, Italy and West Germany.

Reagan said the U.S. plan was "a pretty good solution that would remove some of the problems besetting the people in the occupied territories."

Asked what kind of pressure he would put on Shamir, Reagan said, "Well, I don't think it's so much pressure as it is just an attempt at persuasion."

"But also, I'd like to point out that his cabinet is pretty evenly split on the solution," Reagan said. "So it isn't a case of outside pressure there. He has a great element in his own govern-

ment that sees merit in the proposals that we've made."

Part of the U.S. plan calls for an international peace conference whose members would include the Soviet Union.

Reagan said Moscow had not recognized Israel as a nation and added, "that's very difficult to have someone participating in a conference of that kind who doesn't even believe in the right of statehood of the other country."

He said the conference would not be empowered to impose a settlement, but would try "to be helpful and see if we could not join in helping arrive at a solution that would once and for all end the hostilities."

Shultz: Benefit for Israel

Shultz said Thursday Israel could reap great benefit from the U.S. plan and called on all parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict to support it.

"We tried to propose something that's comprehensive in the sense of dealing between Israel and all the countries on its border," Shultz told a congressional subcommittee.

"If anyone is not included in it when it gets going, that will be their own doing," he said.

Shultz said Israel would reap great benefit from a stable peace.

Referring to the growing Palestinian population under Israeli rule,

300 Palestinians quit Israeli police

(Continued from page 1)

shoulders "patrolled" a Jewish neighbourhood near Al Ibrahim Mosque during noon prayers.

In Nabulus, the West Bank's largest city, noon prayers passed without incident and Israeli soldiers kept largely out of sight although an army helicopter circled overhead.

In Gaza City, the army closed the main Al Anari Mosque for the first time, creating what Palestinian residents said was deep anger in the city. Some 2,500 worshippers usually pray at the mosque.

In other mosques in Gaza City, special "prayers for the missing" were held to honour the Palestinians who have been killed by Israelis since the uprising began.

Shultz said Israel "needs to focus on the fact that there is a very large, clearly ticking demographic time bomb."



Twice weekly as of May

Royal Jordanian is pleased to announce the opening of twice weekly service to Miami from Amman as of May 3, 1988. Serving the U.S. 14 times weekly with all widebody, 3 class flights, Miami is our fourth American gateway along with New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.



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LONDON (R) — After two successive home defeats in the space of five days, Napoli will be anxious to return to winning form when they travel to bottom team Empoli for their Italian First Division clash Sunday.

The Spanish champions and League leaders asked for the game to be brought forward from Sunday's programme to give them an extra day to prepare for Bayern.

They will want to avoid injuries against Stuttgart before their return UEFA Cup quarter-final against Italy's Verona, who they

Brazilian centre-back Elzo has a torn muscle which is likely to keep him out of both Sunday's match and the European Cup trip, and Brazilian Chiquinho, Sweden striker Mats Magnusson and defender Veloso are also under treatment.

Lakhdar Belloumi — the maestro conductor behind a polished

Merry Krimau — an elegant centre-forward who has developed a fine understanding with Boudierhala. Now 33, he is a

French club, Sete. Troare, a consummate opportunist, combines well with Fofana and was acknowledged to be the most effective Ivorian forward in the last Africa

CLASS OF ALPHABETICALLY BY NAME

Cameroun:

Seniors
France Lait 72 JWM 65
Westinghouse 61 La Vache Qui Rit 65

Society to organise cross-country race

AMMAN (J.T.)—The Charitable Jordanian Society for Surgery and Cardiothoracic Diseases will organise a charitable cross-country race on Friday April 1 under the patronage of University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. The race will start from the University of Jordan and will end at the Ambassador Hotel in Shmeisani.

20 said killed in Tripoli stadium collapse

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — A dividing wall collapsed in the central sports stadium in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, killing at least 20 soccer fans, Belgrade dailies reported Friday. The newspapers carried a report from the state news agency Tanjug in Tripoli quoting "reports by eyewitnesses" as saying that panic broke out at the stadium when the wall collapsed during a soccer match between the Libyan and Malta Thursday night. At least 20 people were said to have been killed and "a large number" injured in the stadium, which Tanjug said can hold up to 70,000 people. Tanjug was quoted as saying there had been no official announcement of the accident and that all roads to the stadium had been blocked off.

Whitaker meets left-hander for first time

PARIS (R)—American Pernell Whitaker meets a left-hander for the first time in his professional career Saturday when he challenges Mexican Jose-Luis Ramirez for the World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight title. Whitaker's manager Loo Duva said he had hired three southpaw sparring partners to help the 24-year-old Olympic champion from Virginia train for his bout against the experienced Mexican, who will be fighting for the 110th time. "Pernell has only 15 professional fights, that's true," said Duva. "but he has nearly 300 in the amateur ranks." "He's made fast progress, trained well, and improved his jab. Sure, he still has some faults, but what fighter can brag that he's perfect, that he has nothing to learn?" Ramirez, 28, is a favourite among boxing fans in France, where he fights frequently and where he began his current reign last July in Saint Tropez by outpointing Terrence Alli of Guyana.

Yugoslavia to host World Judo Championship

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav capital Belgrade will host next year's World Judo Championships from Oct. 1-8, the state news agency Tanjug quoted International Judo Federation President Sankia Calogian as saying Friday. A congress of the Sport's World governing body will be held in Belgrade at the same time, it said. The city hosted the 1986 European Judo Championships.

Verona player first to fail dope test

GENEVA (R) — Italian First Division footballer Silvano Fontolan has become the first player to fail a UEFA dope test in eight years of checks, the European Football Union said Friday. UEFA said Fontolan tested positive after playing for Verona in a UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg against Werder Bremen of West Germany March 2. Traces of the stimulants cropropamide and crothetamide were found in both urine samples, UEFA said. UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Committee will meet in Zurich Sunday to discuss the case.

Cuban boxing star to retire at 36

HAVANA (R) — Teofilo Stevenson, who won the Olympic heavyweight boxing title three times, will retire formally in June, it was announced here. Stevenson, who will turn 36 on March 20, was the only man, besides Hungary's Laszlo Papp, to have won three consecutive Olympic gold medals in boxing, at the 1972, '76 and '80 games. The Cuban, also a triple world amateur champion from 1974 to 1986, was denied a possible fourth Olympic triumph at the 1984 Los Angeles Games because of a Soviet-led boycott. Stevenson, who rejected \$1 million to turn professional and fight Muhammad Ali, had gone into semi-retirement since his last competitive fight in May 1986.

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Hindawi opens development projects in Mafrag

MAFRAG (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister, Thounan Hindawi, has opened a number of development projects in the Mafrag governorate and announced that the government was going ahead with plans for improving services for the residents of the badia districts of Jordan.

Hindawi first opened an electrification project for Mutaleh, Dair Al Khat and Jubeh which cost JD 250,000, benefiting nearly

3,000 people.

He laid the foundation stone of a school for girls at Mughir Al Sarhan, which will cost some JD 217,000. The school will accommodate 600 students and will have at least 16 classrooms and a vocational training workshop.

Later, Hindawi inaugurated a school for girls at Sabha which cost JD 1 million. The school, set up on a 74 dunam land, contains 20 classrooms, four laboratories,

two lecture halls, workshops for training students in carpentry, electricity and typing.

The school, the first of its type in Mafrag governorate, has an adjoining living quarter for the staff and students and can accommodate 940 students.

The minister met with notables, students, officials and representatives of various sectors in Mafrag and said that educational and other services in Mafrag will

be upgraded and extended to help the local inhabitants.

He said that the Ministry of Education is going ahead with the implementation of the national educational conference resolutions of last year which he said will tackle different aspects related to teachers and schools.

The minister said efforts are also being made to promote the work of youth and sports clubs in the Mafrag region.

Syrians debate pressing economic difficulties

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian reformists are locked in fierce debate with a conservative old guard over how to deal with pressing economic difficulties, diplomatic sources said.

They said Syria, which celebrated 25 years of Baath Party rule Tuesday, had made great strides in housing, education and health but now faced tough choices on how to make ends meet.

"Within government and party those who prefer a liberal approach and others favouring administrative solutions are debating what system is appropriate," said a European specialist.

Leading officials in the economy and trade ministries were among those who backed a more

open economy, one source said, but added: "while ministers may have an important influence on policy making, President Hafez Assad and the party leaders play key roles."

The president, in a speech marking the party's 25th anniversary in office, acknowledged the country faced problems but said they could be overcome.

"Our main problem is that we consume more than we produce," he said.

The sources listed the problems

facing Syria as inflation, diminishing revenues, foreign debt, high defence spending and failure to make the most of its agricultural base.

They said economic rehabilitation required about \$1.5 billion in fresh investment, economic liberalisation and easing of state controls.

"It's a matter of getting to grips with bad economic management sooner or later," one diplomat said.

Another analyst estimated household inflation over the past year at about 110 per cent and said that over the same period public sector salaries had slipped in real terms.

Diplomatic sources said last year's food imports were equivalent

in value to 50 per cent of Syria's total exports.

They said Syria owed the Soviet Union and East European countries some \$15 billion, mostly for arms such as the MiG-29 fighter and T-80 tank.

"There are few signs of cuts in defence," a diplomat said.

The sources estimated Syria's debt to the World Bank at \$350 million and said the country had other arrears of about \$100 million.

One source said this was unusual because Syria had a reputation for prompt repayment.

"Two years ago Syria earned about \$1 billion in remittances from expatriate workers and had other substantial sums flowing in," he said.

"Now Syria gets some free and preferential oil from Iran, about 600 million from Saudi Arabia and very little else at a time when the international economic climate is difficult," he noted.

One of the pillars of the economy has been oil production, estimated at 160,000 barrels per day (b/d) now and likely to rise to 200,000 b/d by the end of the year.

But the sources said output would fall early in the next decade unless new deposits were found.

Taiwan plans fund to assist poor countries

TAIPEI (AP) — The Taiwan government plans to set up a \$1 billion fund to aid developing countries and promote trade and economic cooperation, an official said Thursday.

Wang Chao-Ming, deputy chairman of the government's Council for Economic Planning and Cooperation, told reporters the council has approved a plan to set up the development fund to offer long-term low-interest loans.

"We are on the way to becoming a developed country and we have the responsibility to help less-developed countries to develop their economies," Wang said.

Taiwan, with an average annual economic growth rate of 8.5 per cent over the past decade, is one of Asia's four prospering newly industrialised countries, along with Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea.

The fund will be used to finance education, manpower training, construction and other projects in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, Wang said.

He said the fund also will provide financial support to local companies which plan to invest in those regions.

Wang said Taiwan's main benefit from the programme will be economic, as development projects may require Taiwan-made equipment.

Under the plan, the fund will be given a budget of \$100 million in its first year of operation, Wang said. Additional funding in subsequent years is expected to bring the fund's total to \$1 billion, he said.

Governor points to farming potential in Sahab, Muwaqqar

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin said Thursday that nearly 2.3 million dunums of land within the Sahab and Muwaqqar districts is useful for agricultural production, but has not been exploited so far.

Only half a million dunums of this area is being grown with trees and cereals a matter which ought to be examined and tackled to ensure more crop production, according to Amin.

The governor was speaking at a general meeting held at Sahab during his inspection tour of the Sahab and Muwaqqar districts within the Amman Governorate.

Amin appealed to heads of municipal and village councils to shoulder more responsibility in promoting agricultural development in the two regions and said that growing crops can be expanded with the employment of modern equipment.

At the meeting, District Governor Thounan Al Hussein outlined the district's development programmes and underlined the importance of the Sahab Industrial City which, he said, cost JD 19 million and now employs 3,000 workers, 25 per cent of whom are from the Sahab and Muwaqqar regions.

Al Jaber passes town budgets

AMMAN (Petra) — Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Minister Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber has approved a JD 206,112 budget for Wadi Mousa town in southern Jordan. Most of the funds for 1988 will be used for purchasing land for public use and asphalted roads.

The Wadi Mousa municipality last year carried out municipal services at the cost of JD 106,000. Most of the funds went to financing the construction of roads and public gardens and the purchase of machinery for the municipality work.

The minister also approved a JD 138,720 budget for Al Qasr town, near Karak, where most of the funds will be used for setting up a compound for government departments and lighting streets.

Another 1988 budget, amounting to JD 65,659, was approved for the town of Smakieh in the Karak governorate.

The funds will be used to finance constructing roads, a public garden and the maintenance of an artesian well in the town.

Mazar

The district governor of Mazar has approved a JD 36,050 budget for the town, also near Karak. Most of the funds will be used for asphalted roads and lighting streets.

In other financial matters, the Department of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment in Bani Kanana district announced that it spent a total of JD 38,800 on building schools and annexes in a number of villages.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, he said, has allocated more funds for schools and a village council at Harima during the current year.

The Mahes municipality last year spent JD 44,538 on municipal and public services, according to Mahes Mayor Jumaa Al Shibli. He said that most of the funds financed the construction of roads, purchasing municipality equipment and machinery and installing traffic lights.

WEEKLY ANALYSIS

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (Petra) — Activity at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) was extremely high during the past week.

The average volume of daily trading in the past week stood at JD 605,096 whereas the total volume amounted to JD 3,025,484 covering 4,509,412 shares carried through 3,416 transactions.

Trading in the industrial sector amounted to JD 2,429,559, registering 80.3 per cent of the total volume of trading, while the banking sector's trading volume was JD 383,032 (12.7 per cent), the services sector 5.9 per cent and the insurance sector 1.1 per cent.

Share prices of bank and services sectors stabilised in the past week, but those of insurance showed a decline. In contrast, share prices in the industrial sector soared in the first part of the week but retreated in the last two days.

The record closing price index was 117.6 points, up from 117.4 points at the start of the week, thus showing an 0.2 per cent gain.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Flighter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The modus operandi under which you have been proceeding for the past two days should be maintained, since this is just what is needed to insure movement in a positive direction. Think big and succeed.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) This morning is a good time to discuss your ambitions with a superior. Stay at home with your nose to the grindstone, and get plenty of rest.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can make some valuable shortcuts from an expert in your area of endeavor. If you make any criticisms, make them constructive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Some special thought for your mate could bring you fine results, but if you purchase a gift for this person, make sure it is practical.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) When conversing with a business associate, make sure your facts and figures are correct. Avoid a troublesome situation this evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have been trying to solve problems on a "policy" level, but you'll have to get down to the basics if you're to have any positive results at all.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Let your talents be noticed by your

superiors, and you can benefit greatly from them. Be extra cautious while driving today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make any repairs to your home which you can handle by yourself. Tonight would be a good time to have some

upbeat guests into your home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Any business dealings you have today can bring you better results than usual, so be energetic and apply yourself seriously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have a habit of over-spending, so learn to be more economical. Set up a new budget and save some money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you work on improving your financial security, you will feel happier and more sure of yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you have been promising your mate to take care of a tedious chore, stop putting it off before it becomes a serious bone of contention.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A trusted friend can give you some good advice on how to attain your personal goals. Get together with pals for a favorite hobby.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8535/45	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2565/75	Canadian dollar
	1.6575/85	Deutsche marks
	1.8635/45	Dutch guilders
	1.3665/75	Swiss francs
	34.77/80	Belgian francs
	5.6550/60	French francs
	1231/1234	Italian lire
	127.10/20	Japanese yen
	5.9030/80	Swedish crowns
	6.3130/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.3450/3500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	444.00/444.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were down heavily in late afternoon business reacting to renewed sterling strength and profit-taking on Thursday's oil sector-led gains, dealers said.

News Kuwait is not planning to take its current 21.28 per cent stake in B.P. above 22.5 per cent dampened much of the speculative support which pushed the oil sector ahead so strongly Thursday. The absence of this support washed through to the rest of the market and the background worries about the impact of sterling on Britain's trade came back to the fore, dealers said.

By 1542 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 23 points to 1,811.6 after the low of 1,806.0 reached at 1520 GMT.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



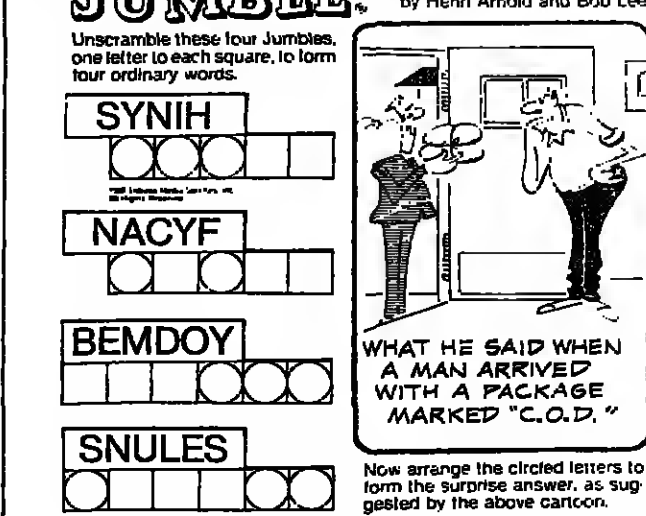
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Yesterday's Jumbles: AGENT HOBBY IMPUTE DROWY
Answer: What that undercover agent was also known as — A SPY IN BED

Noriega 'seeks' Qadhafi help in countering U.S. threats

LONDON (R) — Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega has appealed to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to help in countering U.S. military and economic pressure on Panama. Libyan television reported Thursday night.

It said Noriega, who is under rising pressure from Washington to stand aside, telephoned Qadhafi in Tripoli seeking Libya's support against American threats and aggression.

"During the telephone conversation, General Noriega asked the brother leader for the support of the great Jamahiriya (Libya) for the Panamanian people and its backing for Panama against the American military aggression and economic threats which are directed against Panama," said the report, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The Libyan leader is an avowed opponent of the United States, which accuses him of sponsoring international terrorism.

The United States is strongly supporting ousted Panamanian

President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who was dismissed by the Panamanian legislature when he tried to fire Noriega as Panama's military chief.

U.S. discusses economic moves

Meanwhile in Washington President Reagan and his top advisers reviewed possible new economic moves against Noriega, but the White House was silent on the results of the deliberations.

However, Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, in testimony at a congressional hearing Thursday, said "the major strategy is to target government officials" to put pressure on Noriega to step down.

Within the administration, I don't think there is any support for trade sanctions. I think this financial targeting is more likely



General Manuel Antonio Noriega

to succeed," Abrams said. "There was a meeting. I don't have anything to report." White House spokeswoman Leslye Arshb told reporters.

Other White House officials, who asked not to be identified, said that before the meeting Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other top administration figures would review options, including possible new economic sanctions.



Colonel Muammar Qadhafi

Shultz told a congressional hearing Thursday that Panama's treasury was almost out of funds, and said the United States was considering ways to step up economic pressure on Noriega, who is under indictment in Florida on drug-running charges.

"What is happening is that the government of Panama is finding its treasury empty," he said. The U.S. dollar is Panama's official currency.

Campaign shifts north; Kemp quits

WASHINGTON (R) — The 1988 presidential contest, minus Jack Kemp and perhaps about to lose Gary Hart, has shifted to the northern industrial states beginning with next Tuesday's Illinois primary.

Vice-President George Bush, who took a commanding lead in convention delegates with his sweeping Super Tuesday victory, could effectively wrap up the Republican nomination with a win in Illinois.

An ABC Television poll Thursday showed Bush leading Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole 58-31 per cent in Illinois.

The Democratic contest, apparently a tight battle between Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, Tennessee Senator Albert Gore and black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, is likely to remain cloudy even after Illinois, where home state Senator Paul Simon hopes to revive his flagging campaign.

Meanwhile, New York Representative Jack Kemp became the third Republican to drop out and former Colorado Senator Gary Hart scheduled a Friday press conference at which he was expected to withdraw from the Democratic contest.

"I'm folding up my tent, but I want you to know I'm going to continue to carry the flag high into the future," Kemp said.

Kemp, who ran fourth in almost every Republican contest on Super Tuesday, said his weak showings were partly the result of Bush's ability to link himself with President Reagan.

"That isn't to denigrate George Bush. But it's simply to recognise that I was running against Ronald Reagan," he said.

The Democratic field appeared on the verge of shrinking to five with the expected withdrawal by Hart.

Top Kremlin officials are reviewing the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and a Soviet police team has been sent to the Azerbaijani town of Sumgait, where the worst rioting occurred, to track down participants.

'Over 1,500 Armenians killed'

In a related development, an Armenian group in Cyprus, claimed Thursday that more than 1,500 Armenians were killed in the clashes.

The Nicosia-based Armenian political organisation Tajnakhutun said in a statement that, based on information it has received from the Soviet Union, "the violence against the Armenian population has reached the scale of a massacre."

Simon Ainedjian, the organisation's spokesman, in an interview with the Associated Press identified the source of the claim as contacts in Soviet Armenia.

There was no way to verify the Tajnakhutun claim.

'Soviets to blame'

Also Thursday, in Strasbourg, France, the European Parliament charged that the Soviet government's "brutal" suppression of minority rights in the Republic of Azerbaijan was to blame for last month's ethnic riots.

In a resolution adopted by a show of hands, the parliament called on the Soviet Union to grant its people greater political and individual rights.

Without such freedoms, the text said, "no serious attempt by the Soviet government to implement a programme of economic and administrative reforms can succeed."

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

EEC to continue funding of banned groups

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Economic Community (EEC) said Thursday it will continue financial aid to South African opposition groups even though they have been banned by a government decree. EEC Commission Vice President Lorenzo Natali told the European Parliament the EEC has already paid 25 million European currency units (ECU) (\$30.5 million) to anti-apartheid groups and plans to spend another 20 million ECUs (\$24.4 million) this year. He said it was unclear to what extent the ban on opposition groups would affect EEC aid. "Nevertheless, the (EEC) commission is determined that the community's special programme will continue. The commission is shocked by the intolerance shown by the South African government to its own people and has urged (an end to) such actions, which serve to aggravate an already tense situation," he said.

Vietnamese premier reported dead

TOKYO (R) — Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Hung has died of heart disease, Kyodo news agency reported, quoting reliable sources in Hanoi. The agency, which has a correspondent in Hanoi, gave no further details immediately. A spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry said the news had not been confirmed. Hung, 75, a prominent leader in the Viet Cong's war against Saigon and the United States, was the only southerner to rise to the heights of Vietnam's traditionally northern-dominated government.

11 die in south Indian elections

HYDERABAD, India (R) — At least 11 people were killed in clashes during elections for village councils in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, police said Friday. They were killed Thursday during the first of four rounds of polling for more than 18,500 councils. More than 400,000 candidates are contesting 181,000 seats. Members of India's two Communist parties, the ruling regional Telugu Desam and the nationally-ruling Congress (I), were among those killed. A Telugu Desam Party leader and his four supporters were hacked to death with sharp-edged weapons in Guntur, and three Communists were similarly killed in Khammam district. A Congress Party supporter was shot dead by his rivals in Cuddapah, and another died of knife wounds in Nellore. A Desam worker died of bullet wounds when police fired on angry crowds in Cuddapah.

Rescues at Bangladesh borders

DHAKA (R) — Hundreds of women and children are being smuggled out of Bangladesh to be sold as prostitutes and as the source material for organ transplants. The Bangladesh Rifles, the border force that has been placed on maximum alert to stop the trade, has rescued more than 120 women and children and arrested at least 12 traffickers in the past fortnight, officials said Friday. Arrested traffickers told police most of the children, who were to be sold in India for about \$60, would be killed and their kidneys sold for transplants. The women, lured by promises of jobs, were destined for sale at between \$30 and \$100 each to brothel operators in India or Pakistan or even farther away. The last group of 28 women and children was saved Thursday as they were being taken to India through Bangladesh's northern border.

S. Korean opposition merger bid collapses

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's opposition Friday appeared headed for certain defeat in next month's parliamentary election after one group said it had given up hope of forming a united anti-government front. Acting chief of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) Kim Myung-Yoon told a news conference the RDP was scrapping efforts to merge with the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) headed by veteran dissident Kim Dae-Jung. Political analysts said the opposition split, which let Roh Tae-Woo win the presidency last December, now seemed certain to hand him a workable majority in the new parliament.

Aquino snubs Laurel

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino has refused to name a caretaker to run the Philippines while she is out of the country this year, avoiding passing power to her rebellious vice-president. Aquino said Thursday she would govern the troubled country by remote control through her executive secretary during trips to China and Hong Kong in April and Italy and Switzerland in June. "It seems that the president did not trust anybody," Vice-President Salvador Laurel said on radio Friday. Laurel earlier this week aligned himself to a new political grouping of disillusioned Aquino supporters and former backers of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos. He has insisted the "Nation Movers" group is not against Aquino, despite the membership of several high-profile opposition figures. "The organisation is not opposing... but is aimed to help the government," Laurel said.

Contras propose new peace talks

MIAMI (R) — Nicaragua's contra rebels proposed new peace talks with the Managua government starting on March 16 and said opposition leaders should attend as observers. Contra officials said Thursday they were prepared to meet with negotiators of the Sandinista government for talks aimed at "a national solution" to the country's civil war. The contras rejected an earlier government proposal to begin the talks this week in the town of Sapo, near the Costa Rican border, saying the notice was too short and they were not prepared.

Suharto reelected

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's National Assembly urged President Suharto Friday to crack down on corruption and abuse of power, strengthen democracy and reinforce the legal system during his next five-year term of office.

The 66-year-old president, who has ruled the world's largest Muslim nation for the past 22 years, was sworn in by the assembly Friday morning for a fifth consecutive term which will keep him in power until 1993.

Assembly Speaker Kharis Suhud said in an address that priority should be given to strengthening law enforcement and democracy, staunching what he called "leakages and the waste of state resources and finances," and providing a stronger legal basis for the country's development.

President Suharto is under pressure during the coming five years to relax his tight grip on politics and freedom of expression in the same way that he has started to deregulate the country's protected economy.

Prince Charles escapes lethal avalanche

DAVOS, Switzerland (Agencies) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, Friday visited the hospital bed of a woman injured in a Swiss skiing accident that killed one of his best friends and almost claimed his own life. Prince Charles's beige Audi car swept past a crowd of British press photographers gathered in a hillyard outside the hospital where the woman, Patty Palmer Tomkinson, a close friend, was lying.

Prince Charles escaped unscathed after an avalanche hit his six-strong skiing party Thursday as they made their way across an unmarked slope near the picturesque eastern Swiss resort of Klosters.

Major Hugh Lindsay, a close friend of the prince and former equerry to Queen Elizabeth, was killed by the avalanche.

Tomkinson, although dragged 400 metres down the slope by the snow, was still alive when she was dug out by the party and flown to the hospital with severe leg injuries.

Prince Charles's wife Diana and his sister-in-law, the Duchess of York, were safely in their chalet when the accident occurred at around 3 p.m.

In another development, a helicopter from a British warship that includes Prince Andrew among its crew crashed into the sea off Portugal, killing two crew members, a British embassy official said Friday.

Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth, was not among the victims of the Thursday crash, the spokesman told the Associated Press.

Sally Osborne, a press officer at the British embassy in Lisbon, said: "We understand two bodies were recovered from the sea at the site of the accident during the night."

She said she did not know whether Andrew was on board the helicopter.

COLUMN

Anesthesia recommended for circumcisions

CHICAGO (R) — Circumcision, the only elective surgery routinely performed without anesthesia, should be done with a pain killer because of evidence that babies suffer during the procedure, a study said Thursday. Doctors at Group Health Inc. and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis said they based the conclusion on blood tests from newly-circumcised babies. Those who received an injection of Lidocaine, a local anesthetic, at the base of the penis had significantly lower levels of cortisol in their blood, they said. The substance is an indicator of physiological distress. In addition, the researchers reported that the use of the anesthesia is safe. The study was published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association. "There is no doubt that circumcisions are painful for the baby," the study said.

WHO launching sex survey

LONDON (R) — People in dozens of countries will be asked how they make love, how often and with whom under a World Health Organisation (WHO) survey aimed at curbing the spread of AIDS, a WHO official said Thursday. Dr. Mannel Carballo, a Spanish WHO official at an AIDS conference in London, said the information would be used to help countries in their national education campaigns against AIDS. "We believe in the last 20 years there have been big changes in patterns of sexuality. There is a connection between sexual behaviour and HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infection and we need to identify these patterns in order to target our AIDS education campaigns," he said. Starting in May, surveys will be sent to samples of about 1,600 people in East and West African countries, Latin America, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, Belgium, Greece and Spain. Carballo said, "We're looking at how often people have sex outside stable unions, what sort of sex they have and how far they'll travel for it," Carballo said.

Condom plan for Seoul Olympics

SEOUL (AP) — A proposal to distribute condoms at the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul to combat AIDS is being studied, officials said Friday. Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC) officials said they are considering plans to provide condoms at the athletes' village and at stadiums and other sports facilities. South Korean health authorities are concerned that the 270,000 foreign visitors expected for the games could help spread AIDS in the country. The government recently ruled out suggestions that all Olympic participants and visitors should be required to take AIDS tests.

Student strangles parents

PEKING (R) — A Chinese student, fearing his family would stop paying his tuition after he was caught cheating in an examination, strangled his parents to death, a Shanghai newspaper reported. The Liberation Daily said Wang Lin, a 19-year-old student at an industrial college in the eastern city of Nanjing, strangled his mother while she was cooking lunch and his father while he was asleep. The newspaper said Wednesday that Wang was being held by police.

Andy Gibb passes away

LONDON (AP) — Andy Gibb, who followed his brothers, the Bee Gers, to pop stardom, but saw his career falter after he became heavily involved with drugs, died Thursday at the age of 30. The English-born Gibb died at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, northwest of London, at 8:45 a.m. (0845 GMT), a hospital statement said. The cause of death was not given, according to a spokesman for Island Records Ltd., who spoke on condition of not being identified. Press Association, the domestic British news agency, said Gibb was admitted to the hospital Monday, discharged, and readmitted Wednesday night after complaining of stomach pains. Gibb, who at times sang in a falsetto voice, had a string of hits in the late 1970s and early 1980s and was twice nominated for Grammy awards.



Christian Armenians demonstrate in Yerevan to demand unification with their brothers and sisters in Muslim-dominated Azerbaijan

Tape reveals serious disorders in recent Azerbaijan clashes

MOSCOW (R) — A videotape recorded in the disputed Soviet region of Nagorno-Karabakh provides the first documentary evidence of serious disorders there in late February. Western television correspondents said Friday.

They said the tape was brought to Moscow this week by Armenians who said they had also sent a copy to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to convince him of the gravity of events in the Azerbaijani region, mainly populated by ethnic Armenians.

Markings show the six-hour tape was shot from Feb. 24 to 26, when up to one million demonstrators in the Armenian capital of Yerevan were demanding that Nagorno-Karabakh, ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923, be reunited with Armenia.

The issue, one of the most serious challenges faced by Gorbachev since he took office three years ago, has sparked ethnic rioting resulting in at least 34 deaths.

Residents of Yerevan were planning a one-hour work stoppage Friday to press their demand for reunification.

Officials in Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, have acknowledged that clashes broke out last month in the

mountainous Transcaucasian region, but the authorities in Moscow have given few details of what occurred there.

Injuries, destruction

The tape shows residents of Stepanakert bandaged and bruised in hospital. Armenians who translated their comments said they claimed they were attacked by groups of Azerbaijanis.

The camera then pans to buildings gutted by fire and to vandalised cars on buses. Street signs show it is Stepanakert.

Inside one devastated house, a woman holds up a charred portrait of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin and declares: "They even destroyed this."

In another section, the tape shows a dense crowd massed in Stepanakert's main square jeering at Soviet Vice-President Poytr Demichev tries to address the gathering.

Demichev, a non-voting member of the ruling Politburo, and three other senior Kremlin officials were sent to Armenia and Azerbaijan as tensions mounted over the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

The tape shows local officials trying to stop the crowd from

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARI
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 7 ♠ KJ973 ♠ A2965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 1 2 1
What do you bid now?
- Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ AJ762 ♠ 8643 ♠ J2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 1 2 1
What do you bid now?
- Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J76 ♠ 9 ♠ AKJ72 ♠ AKJ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 1 2 1
What do you bid now?
- Q.4 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 895 ♠ J107632 ♠ 632
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 1 2 1
What action do you take?
- Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 7 ♠ 854 ♠ AKQ1093 ♠ AQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 1 2 1
What do you bid now?
- Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ AJ72 ♠ Q83 ♠ A762
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond? Look for answers on Monday.

dpst 2/12/88